Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: ChildServe Autism Day Program - Johnston **Enrollment:** 32 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 44758

Street: 5609 Greendale Rd **City:** Johnston Iowa **Zip** 50131 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 5609 Greendale Rd, Johnston, IA, 50131

Director's Name: Autumn Karmia/Kara Pick **Phone Number:** 515-727-8750

On-Site Supervisor(s): N/A **E-Mail:** barbwil@childserve.org

Date(s) of Visit: 06-10-2025

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** **Off Year Visit** X **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application X **Re-Application** **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 12-02-2024

FIRE INSPECTION **State** X **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 06-24-2022

Comments : Fire inspections are due at least every three years. Completed by Johnston-Grimes Municipal Fire Dept

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: X Profit Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) X 2 Years X Preschool-Age School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: X Year-round School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			60		60
Summer					0

QRS Rating: 1

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 01-01-2025 to 01-01-2027
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Maggie Gibson, SWIV **Date:** 06-20-2025

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

A an unannounced visit to the center was completed 6-10-25; Autumn Karmia, director was present during this visit.

This updated report is to reflect administrative changes, site modifications, updated hours of operation and updated capacities when the program moved; and now has additional programming space.

The center has changed to be known as Childserve Autism Day Program--Johnston and is located at 5609 Greendale RD, Johnston, IA. This program, which began in 2015, provides care specifically for children ages 2 to kindergarten age diagnosed with Autism. The center has a comprehensive set of policies and procedures for the center's daily functions, within the ChildServe's process manual.

The ADP operates from three classrooms (each with a capacity of 20), located on the north side of the building. There is an additional space immediately adjacent to the the classrooms used as a gym or large motor play area.

This program routinely operates with an increased staff to child ratio and is well within state defined ratios. The children are content and staff were observed to be engaged in individual activities with the children. Each child attending ADP continues to receive individualized care/programming, that can include speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy.

As of July 1, 2025; center hours are 7:30AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Room observations/Activities: The center uses the STAR program for curriculum as well as providing services to meet individual goals for each child under each child's own individualized care plan. The center uses a computer application to communicate with parents. The children were observed to be content and engaged with individual activities. Staff maintained good, yet nurturing structure. The rooms are organized and set up specifically for the child's developmental requirements while attending.

Nutrition Practices: The center follows the CACFP Food Program Guide Lines; as well as specific food/meal necessities for the children attending that are defined by each child's care plan, where it is served family-style by staff.

Health and safety: Medications are stored securely in the room and all staff are medication administration certified. There are backpacks with first aide kits in the rooms. The fire/tornado plans were posted and drills were documented having been completed monthly as required.

Playground: The playground is sectioned and enclosed by chain link fencing with a shade structure and grass surfacing. The program utilizes an indoor gym/play area just adjacent to the classrooms.

Transportation: NA

Administrative Records: Information regarding mandatory reporting, handbook accessibility, consultant contact, license, fire/tornado plans and no-smoking signs were conspicuously posted as required.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

This center provides a unique child care opportunity for children with Autism. Each child is assigned an RN Care Coordinator who manages the child's Plan of Care. Staff receive specific training to assist them in providing comprehensive care to children being served at this center. Children are afforded large motor play on a daily basis through the use of the playground or gyms.

Each child attending this program receives individualized care; receiving speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy. There is much collaboration between the departments and the children receive the different areas of therapy at the center. The children also receive one on one teaching time, using the Star curriculum, designed for children with Autism. The center sees great outcomes with the children and progress. The center is able to provide early intervention for the children to assist them in being ready for kindergarten. Some of the children are able to start kindergarten in regular classrooms with no IEP in place.

The center continues to provide a Behavioral Health program.

The center assists families with resources in the community.
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The center continues to have a higher ratio of staff to children than is required by licensing.

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

NA

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The children were content while engaged with individual activities. Staff were observed to be nurturing and responsive to the children in their care. The rooms offer specialized activities/toys/play centers.

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.